

H.R. 847, The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act

What is the problem?

- Thousands of First Responders and others exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero are now sick and need our help.
- These include New York Firefighters, EMTs and Police, construction workers, clean-up workers, residents, area workers, and school children, among others.
- Their illnesses include respiratory and gastrointestinal system conditions such as asthma, interstitial lung disease, chronic cough and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), and mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Nearly 16,000 Responders and 2,700 community members are currently sick and receiving treatment. Over 40,000 Responders are currently in medical monitoring. 71,000 individuals are enrolled the WTC Health Registry.
- Although most of these people live in the New York/New Jersey area, at least 10,000 people came from around the country to help in the aftermath of the attacks. They hail from every state in the Union and nearly every Congressional District. Many are sick and others are very concerned about their health.
- Those who have economic losses because of their WTC-related illnesses need and deserve compensation, but have no alternative to the current litigation system.
- The WTC Contractors and the City of New York are being sued by over 10,000 people who are sick because of Ground Zero toxins. They face great financial loss because they were asked to help at Ground Zero in the country's time of need.

How does the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act address the problem?

- Provides medical monitoring and treatment to WTC Responders and Community members (residents, area workers, students) who were exposed to the toxins at Ground Zero.
- Builds on the existing monitoring and treatment program by delivering expert medical treatment for these unique exposures at Centers of Excellence.
- Provides for research into WTC-related health conditions.
- Reopens the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide compensation for economic losses and harm as an alternative to the current litigation system.
- Provides liability protections for the WTC Contractors and the City of New York.